

C1-0
7.(Amended) The airbag fabric of claim 6 wherein the thickness of said [coating or laminate] film is from 0.1 to about 3.5 mils.

REMARKS

The pending claims within this reissue application are 1-43. Claims 6 and 7 have been amended as necessary to overcome the present indefiniteness rejection (which is now moot). No new matter has been added as such limitations were clearly within the scope of the originally issued and disclosed claims and subject matter. Entry and due consideration of such amendments are therefore respectfully requested, as well as withdrawal of the now-moot indefiniteness rejection. No new claims have been added nor have any claims been deleted.

A new reissue oath/declaration has been submitted with this filing in order to overcome the objection raised by the Office. Proper language in terms of the word "All" rather than "The" is now present to remedy this problem.

The Office has rejected Claims 1-43 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Moriwaki et al. Applicant respectfully traverses such a basis of rejection as untenable for the simple reason that patentee does not disclose nor fairly suggest an airbag fabric of the same low permeability characteristics as now claimed. Basically, Moriwaki et al. are concerned with providing a lower construction, and thus less expensive, fabric ultimately for airbag utilization that exhibits similar properties to woven fabrics of higher construction (e.g., higher cover factor). Patentees accomplish this through the application of their extremely low level coatings. However, as is evident from the examples and measurements therein,

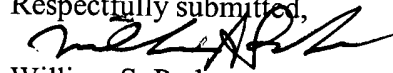
such a coating does not provide low air permeability, at least to the degrees now claimed by Applicant, and merely permits the production of a lower construction (cover factor) fabric that exhibits similar properties to more expensive higher construction types. Even with such lower construction fabrics, it is noted that there are no examples directed to any fabrics with cover factors below a 2100 threshold level. At least, there is no anticipation over the presently claimed fabrics. Additionally, however, the Tables at columns 10 and 11 clearly show that the exemplified Moriwaki et al. fabrics do not possess sufficiently low air permeabilities to meet the present claim limitations. Patentees utilize $\text{cc}/\text{cm}^2/\text{sec}$ for their air permeability measurements; Applicant utilizes cfm. The conversion from $\text{cc}/\text{cm}^2/\text{sec}$ to cfm requires a multiplication factor of ~ 1.96 . Thus, taking the Moriwaki et al. measurements, such as at lines 27-33 on col. 10, the lowest air permeability is $6.1 \text{ cc}/\text{cm}^2/\text{sec} \times 1.96$, or $\sim 11.9 \text{ cfm}$; line 2 of col. 11 provides the same result. This is well above the required low level of 0.5 cfm (or $\sim 0.26 \text{ cc}/\text{cm}^2/\text{sec}$) present within the current claims. Furthermore, there is no suggestion to increase the coating levels within Moriwaki et al. above a 10 micron level. As such, there is no way suggested by patentees to provide sufficient motivation the ordinarily skilled artisan to modify the teachings of Moriwaki et al. to meet the instant claim limitations in terms of air permeability. The ordinarily skilled artisan would have understood the purpose behind Moriwaki et al.'s teachings, namely, as noted above, to provide a lower construction, less expensive airbag fabric, that exhibits similar properties to uncoated higher construction, more expensive, airbag fabrics. No indication or insinuation as to improved air permeability is provided, at least to the extent required within the present claims. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the applied rejections are therefore earnestly solicited.

CONCLUSION

In view of all of the previous amendments and arguments, it is respectfully submitted that the pending claims are in condition for allowance and it is requested that this application be passed on to issue.

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Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop non-Fee Amendment, The Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on May 16, 2003.



William S. Parks, Attorney for Assignee